

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

Any FCC decision made for the benefit of corporate media and against free press, is a vote against democracy. It is YOUR job to ensure that the American people have access to any and all forms of information and to protect us against those who would try to limit our choices. This deception on your part needs to end now. Do your job that WE, THE PEOPLE, have entrusted you to do.